United Nations A/C.2/60/SR.39

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
26 January 2006

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 39th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 19 December 2005, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Koudelka (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Czech Republic)

Contents

Agenda item 51: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (*continued*)

Agenda item 56: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (*continued*)

(b) Women in development (*continued*)

Agenda item 116: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (*continued*)

Completion of the main part of the Committee's work

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

05-65061 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Wali (Nigeria), Mr. Koudelka (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 4.20 p.m.

Agenda item 51: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.6 and L.72)

Draft resolutions on follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

1. **The Chairman** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.72, which was being submitted by Mr. Hart (Barbados), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.6. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.72 was adopted.*

3. **Mr. Mally** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of position, said that the United States, while a strong supporter of the Monterrey Consensus, believed that the resolution did not take a final decision on the exact timing or venue of the proposed follow-up conference. General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, particularly paragraphs 27 and 73, strongly emphasized the appropriate use of existing institutions and mechanisms. The United States looked forward to further discussion of that issue during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

4. **Mr. Brousseau** (Canada), speaking on behalf of Australia, New Zealand and Canada (CANZ), said that while the CANZ Group had not wished to block consensus on the important resolution just adopted, it was disappointed and perplexed by the absence of any reference to remittances. The Monterrey Consensus was not limited to public funds for public purposes; rather, it addressed all financing sources that could help countries to eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development as a step towards a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system.

5. Remittances were specifically mentioned in the Monterrey Consensus, and with good reason. In 2005, the flow of remittances to developing countries was estimated by some sources at over US$ 165 billion. Factoring in informal, unrecorded flows could bring that figure to nearly $250 billion.

6. The CANZ Group strongly supported the resolution on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances (A/C.2/60/L.15/Rev.1), particularly its second preambular paragraph recognizing that remittance flows constituted sources of private capital, complemented domestic savings and were instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients. It regretted that an opportunity had been missed in the draft resolution on financing for development to call on Member States to "adopt policies and undertake measures to reduce the cost of transfer of migrant remittances to developing countries and to pursue measures destined to facilitate access to banks and financial institutions".

7. The CANZ Group did not call for remittances to be "directed" or "channelled" and was outspoken in rejecting false equations with official development assistance. It believed, however, that it was a matter of consistency, common sense and good policy to recognize and treat remittances as a financial flow and as one that could help to "eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development". The CANZ Group would continue to act on the basis of those views.

8. **Mr. Kariuki** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union attached great importance to the successful implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and was pleased to have played its part in building on it. He expressed satisfaction that agreement had been reached on some of the modalities for the review conference, including the issues it would address, consistent with the provisions of resolution 57/270 B, and that the timing of the follow-up conference had been narrowed down; the European Union's preference for holding the conference in 2009 was well known.

9. The European Union looked forward to discussions of the matter during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly and to further developing the modalities and preparations for the conference. It welcomed the generous offer of Qatar in that connection but also believed that, as set out in resolution 57/270 B, follow-up and review conferences should take place as far as possible within existing United Nations institutions.

10. Regrettably, a large number of amendments to the resolution had been introduced very late, including on such issues as ODA timetables, on which significant progress had been achieved during the session. It was to be hoped that such late amendments could be avoided in future.

11. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu Aguirre** (Mexico) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, which reflected the dynamic pace at which financing for development issues were advancing in the United Nations. His delegation was pleased that the Committee had been able to act on the provisions of paragraph 73 of the Monterrey Consensus by deciding to hold a follow-up conference in 2008 or 2009 and hoped that the modalities for that conference could be developed further during the sixty-first session of the Assembly. He thanked Qatar for offering to host the conference.

12. **Ms. Mills** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, although the final text of the draft resolution did not fully reflect its views, the Group of 77 and China had been pleased to join the consensus in a spirit of flexibility and compromise, thereby preserving the partnership established in Monterrey. The Group of 77 and China welcomed, in particular, progress in deciding modalities for the follow-up conference. While continuing to support the holding of the conference in Qatar, the Group of 77 and China looked forward to future discussion of the issue at the sixty-first session of the Assembly.

13. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.6 was withdrawn.*

The meeting was suspended at 4.35 p.m. and resumed at 5 p.m.

Agenda item 56: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.41 and L.73)

Draft resolutions on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

14. **The Chairman** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.73, which was being submitted by Mr. Alshabibi (Yemen), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.41. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

15. **Mr. Hart** (Barbados) said that, following the adoption of the resolution on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, a number of changes had been made to the text of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.73. Paragraphs 16, 17 and 18 would be replaced by paragraphs 5, 5 (a), 5 (b), 5 (c), 5 (e) and 5 (f) of the draft resolution on financing for development the Committee had just adopted (A/C.2/60/L.72).

16. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.73, as orally revised, was adopted.*

17. **Mr. Mally** (United States of America) said that, in joining the consensus on the draft resolution, the United States understood the term "right to development" to mean that each individual should enjoy the right to develop his or her intellectual or other capabilities to the maximum extent possible through the exercise of the full range of civil and political rights.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.41 was withdrawn.*

(b) Women in development (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.43 and L.64)

Draft resolutions on women in development

19. **The Chairman** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.64, which was being submitted by Mr. Alshabibi (Yemen), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.43. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

20. **Mr. Blake** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, requested a suspension of the meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 5.05 p.m. and resumed at 5.20 p.m.

21. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu Aguirre** (Mexico), speaking in his capacity as facilitator, said that the eleventh preambular paragraph should end after "between women and men and to development" in the third line. The end of paragraph 10 should read: "elaborate and implement, at all appropriate levels, plans of action to

eliminate violence against women and girls". Paragraph 28 should be deleted in its entirety.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.64, as orally revised, was adopted.*

23. **Ms. Shestack** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of position, referred to the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Beijing review conferences, and to the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraph 24, both of which contained the term "reproductive health", and reiterated her delegation's firm commitment to the empowerment of women and the promotion of women's fullest enjoyment of universal human rights and fundamental freedoms.

24. The United States had devoted substantial monetary and human resources towards programmes and activities to eliminate violence against women, including trafficking in women and children; increase access to health care, education and economic opportunities; empower women in conflict situations; protect and assist refugee women and internally displaced persons; increase women's political participation; and ensure de jure and de facto equality and non-discrimination.

25. The United States endorsed and reaffirmed the important political goals set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on the understanding that those documents constituted an important policy framework without creating international legal rights or legally binding obligations on States under international law and that, in accordance with the international consensus reached at the 2005 session of the Commission on the Status of Women and confirmed by the Chairperson of the Commission, the Beijing documents created no new international rights, including a right to abortion.

26. Her delegation's reaffirmation of the goals, objectives and commitments set out in those documents did not constitute a change in its position with respect to treaties it had not ratified. While the United States fully supported the principle of voluntary choice regarding maternal and child health and family planning, it had stated clearly and on many occasions, consistent with the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, that it did not recognize abortion as a method of family planning, nor did it support abortion in its reproductive health assistance.

27. As her delegation understood it, there was an international consensus that the terms "reproductive health services", "reproductive right" and "reproductive health" did not include abortion or constitute support, endorsement or promotion of abortion or the use of abortifacients. The United States supported the treatment of women who suffered injuries or illnesses caused by legal or illegal abortion, including, for example, post-abortion care, and did not categorize such treatment as an abortion-related service.

28. With regard to the ninth preambular paragraph recognizing the importance of respect for all human rights, including the right to development, the United States understood the term "right to development" to mean that each individual should enjoy the right to develop his or her intellectual or other capabilities to the maximum extent possible through the exercise of the full range of civil and political rights.

29. Referring to paragraph 14, she said that the United States accepted "equal pay for equal work" but had concerns about "work of equal value", as there were no internationally agreed criteria to decide whether a particular form of work was "of equal value" to another.

30. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.43 was withdrawn.*

31. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) noted that the draft resolutions considered by the Committee during the current meeting had not been distributed in all the official languages of the Organization. That should not be regarded as a precedent for future meetings.

Agenda item 116: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.66)

Draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly submitted by the Chairman

32. **The Chairman** drew attention to the Committee's draft programme of work for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly (A/C.2/60/L.66). The plenary Assembly, at its 17th meeting, had decided to allocate item 116 on revitalization of the work of the General Assembly to all the Main Committees for the

sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work.

33. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.64 on women in development, the final paragraph, of which stated that the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the sub-item entitled "Women in development", item 9 (b) should be deleted from the draft programme of work for the sixty-first session. The item would be included in the draft programme of work for the sixty-second session, to be adopted at the end of the sixty-first session.

34. *The draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly submitted by the Chairman, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Completion of the main part of the Committee's work

35. **The Chairman** drew Committee members' attention to two procedural issues. One had to do with side events, such as lectures and panel discussions, which he believed should not coincide with informal negotiations in order to ensure that all interested Committee members would have an opportunity to attend them. Special events should be scheduled during the formal meeting dealing with the relevant item. The other had to do with finding a way to expedite the work of the Committee while still allowing the necessary time for thorough deliberations and the achievement of consensus. The Bureau would be meeting with the Secretariat to discuss those and other issues with a view to submitting lessons learned and recommendations to next year's Bureau.

36. **Ms. Haycock** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the impetus to development provided by the 2005 World Summit, reaffirmed the Union's commitment to implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and said that the Committee's work should be informed by the acknowledgement, at the Summit, that peace, security, development and human rights were interlinked and should be mutually reinforcing.

37. The European Union believed that consensus in the Committee was valuable and demonstrated a strong resolve to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It would continue to work for consensus at future sessions.

38. **Mr. Kariuki** (United Kingdom), also speaking on behalf of the European Union, reaffirmed the Union's support for the process to revitalize the Committee and improve its working methods. Fewer and more focused reports and resolutions would enrich the quality and impact of the Committee's work. The European Union looked forward to continuing its work with the President of the General Assembly and the ad hoc working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/313, with a view to strengthening and revitalizing the General Assembly.

39. **Mr. Lolo** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of Mr. Wali, the Chairman of the Committee, who, for health reasons, had been unable to attend the final meetings of the session, thanked Committee members for their support and added that expediting the work of the Committee was an issue that Mr. Wali, too, would have wished to address.

40. After the customary exchange of courtesies, in which **Ms. Haycock** and **Mr. Kariuki** (United Kingdom) on behalf of the European Union, **Ms. Mills** (Jamaica) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, **Mr. Atiyanto** (Indonesia) on behalf of the Group of Asian States, and **Mr. Lolo** (Nigeria) participated, **the Chairman** declared that the Committee had completed the main part of its work for the sixtieth session.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.